

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APR 11 2005

Group Art Unit: 2852  
Examiner: William J. Royer

## In Re PATENT APPLICATION Of:

Applicant: Akihito Onishi et al.

Serial No.: 10/647,285

Filed: August 26, 2003

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Attny Ref.: MAE 293

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April 11, 2005Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Official Action mailed on January 11, 2005.

Payment for six independent claims is attached (following the present amendment there is a total of nine independent claims).

No fee for extension of time is due. However, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0002 if any fees are needed to enter this paper, and please advise us accordingly. It is noted that no petition is required because of the authorization to charge, but please consider this paper a petition for extension of time if needed.

A substitute specification will be submitted on Tuesday, April 12. A marked-up version of the specification showing changes is attached. Some requirements of the Examiner are traversed, as is explained below.

A proposed drawing change is attached. The change is that suggested by the Examiner at page 2 of the Action, identifying edge 11b in Fig. 4(a). The requirement for "prior art" in Figs 9-10 is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

*Attorney docket MAE293*

An IDS is submitted along with this paper, submitting publication JP 06-130778 which discloses two electrifying blades 118 in contact with the image carrier 101; the same potentials are applied to the electrifying blades 118, and therefore the publication JP 06-130778 does not disclose feature (b) of amended claims 1 and 20.

The amendment to claim 1 is based on Figs. 8A-8C and page 9, line 12 to page 10, line 23 in the specification.

The symbol " $\leq$ " below indicates "less than or equal to," i.e., a combination of the symbols "<" and "=", and " $\geq$ " indicates "greater than or equal to."

New claim 20 is supported by Figs. 8A-8C and page 9, line 12 to page 10, line 23 in the specification. It is patentable for the reasons below.

New claim 21 is supported page 28, lines 1-20 in the specification. It is patentable for the reasons below.

Please amend as follows. The amended claims will replace all earlier versions of the claims.

AMENDMENT

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